

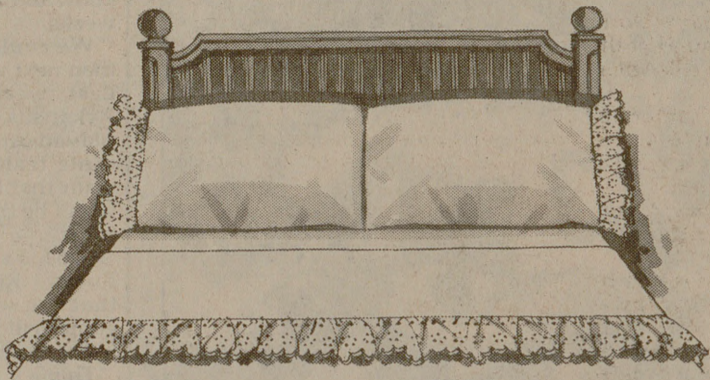
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Offer expires October 23, 1991.  
Additional charge for breast piece.  
**Grandy's**  
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**Sharp hopes to keep edge at TWS**

By Richard S. James  
The Battalion

Scott Sharp is staying put. But he's far from idle.

Sharp, the 1991 Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) Liquid Tide Trans-Am Tour driver's champion, will defend his title in the series next year. He is bucking a recent trend of champions leaving the series for higher profile circuits.

"Trans-Am is a driver's series," Sharp said. "Trans-Am isn't dependent on the car. In some series, if you don't have a certain car, you don't win."

Sharp will race the #33 Duracell Chevrolet Camaro this weekend at Texas World Speedway in the Trans-Am race on the 1.8 mile road course. The Trans-Am series is for purpose built race cars based on and resembling American production sedans and sports cars.

Sharp clinched the 1991 driver's championship at the last race a month ago at Road America in Wisconsin. At 23, he is the youngest driver to win the title.

He has won eight pole positions this year. If he grabs the pole this weekend, he will tie Mark Donohue's record for the most poles in a single season.

Donohue set the record in 1968, the same year Sharp was born.

Although this is Sharp's first professional championship, he has a long history of winning for a 23-



Richard S. James/The Battalion

Scott Sharp will race the Duracell Chevrolet Camaro at TWS Sunday.

year-old.

He won the SCCA GT-2 National Championship in 1986, the first year he was eligible to race in SCCA competition. He followed that up with two GT-1 championships in 87 and 88.

He won his first Trans-Am race at the Detroit Grand Prix last year in his second full season of competition in the series. His six victories and championship this year has been a surprise to some people, including himself.

"I didn't expect the level of

competition we were able to get this season," he said. "We've really done well this season."

"They've really given me good equipment and support." Although Sharp plans to stay with the team next year, he does intend to move up eventually.

"I want to run Indy cars. I want to win the CART (Championship Auto Racing Teams) championship."

He said he hopes his association with Chevrolet, whose Ilmor Chevrolet engine is currently dominating Indy car competition, will help him achieve that goal.

Other top drivers racing in the Trans-Am race are Darin Brassfield and Paul Gentilozzi, driving Oldsmobiles, Mustang driver Bob Fellows, and Camaro drivers Bob Sobey, Les Lindley and Texas A&M former student George Robinson from Houston.

The Trans-Am cars will not be the only cars competing this weekend. Other SCCA classes competing are the Escort World Challenge, the Truck Guard/Shelby zone Challenge, and the Oldsmobile Pro Series.

The Escort World Challenge race will be a three-hour endurance race at 3:45 on Saturday.

Following the Trans-Am race on Sunday will be the Oldsmobile Pro Series, for two-seat, specially built racing cars powered by Oldsmobile Quad-Four engines.

Former Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton is scheduled in that event.

**Neck, back problems often caused by athletic injuries, doctor says**

By Michelle Bergeron  
The Battalion

Eighty percent of all Americans are affected by some form of lower back pain. Dr. Robert Cantu, a neurosurgeon visiting A&M, said Thursday.

"I'm sure this comes as no surprise to any of us in this room," Cantu said. "As almost all of us have had a lower back pain at one time or another."

Although lower back pain is a fairly universal injury, it is experienced most commonly in athletic circles.

There are certain sports which do have a higher risk for back injuries, but Dr. Cantu said that all sports provide some margin of risk.

"Each sport has relative risks, globally as a sport," he said. "And as with any sport there are certain positions that are at higher risks than others."

Ice hockey, surprisingly he said, is one of the top "at risk" sports for potential back injury.

"Down here in the nice sunny warmth of Texas you probably don't think a lot about ice hockey," Cantu said. "It's actually a greater risk per 100,000 participants for neck and spine injuries than football."

Ice hockey injuries are usually sustained from being checked from behind and also by running

head first into the boards.

Such sports as football, wrestling and gymnastics are all about equal as far as risk is concerned, he said.

"It is primarily the lineman in football who suffers lower back injuries," Cantu said.

It is the activity of blocking upwards with the head in a flex position that is responsible for causing injury to the neck, back and spine.

Everything that is involved in the lower back pertains to the cervical spine also, so there is an inter-relationship between neck, spine and back injuries.

"We see most injuries in those sports in which there are compressive forces vertically driven down the spinal canal," Cantu said. "In the process of those forces the discs are squeezed and there is excessive risk for low back injury."

This also is a primary factor in cervical spine injuries. He said the potential for hyperextension is even greater because of thoracic (the part of the body between the neck and the abdomen) injury than for disc injury.

"When you stop to think about it," Cantu said. "We can only flex down until where our chin hits our chest. But there is nothing to stop the head until we literally hit our thoracic cage."

In such sports as diving and gymnastics, hyperextension is held responsible for most of the

injuries.

"Primarily in activities in which there are excessive hyper movements of the spine are where we see these such injuries," Cantu said. "Divers, most especially, hyperextend the lumbar spine during their maneuvers to reach the water."

Gymnasts are also a prime example he said, due to backbending movements and balance beam dismounts.

Most back pain involves injuries to the facet structures of the ligament-tendon muscles. Cantu said it is not important to distinguish between these specific injuries though, because the treatment is almost always the same, and the outcome should be suitably successful in all instances.

Cantu said the most effective mode of relief for a back related injury is rest. Ordinarily a form of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug is prescribed even though all these drugs have high risks of gastro-intestinal bleeding.

Almost everyone usually recovers from back pain fairly quickly, even those who do not take any steps toward improving their problem.

"If we do some things correctly about it," Cantu said. "We would get over the injury a whole lot faster."

Rehabilitation assures full recovery without recurrences of the problem, he said.

**Who Are The Best Players In The Southwest Conference? You Make The Call.**

As major sponsors of Southwest Conference football, Exxon invites you to stop at participating stations, and cast your vote for the official Exxon Southwest Conference Supreme Team. Nominated players are listed below. Voting ends November 3.

**OFFENSE**

**QUARTERBACK-SELECT 1**  
Leon Clay-TCU  
Peter Gardere-Texas  
J.J. Joe-Baylor  
David Klingler-Houston  
Bucky Richardson-A&M  
Mike Romo-SMU

**CENTER-SELECT 1**  
Scott Baehren-Baylor  
David Breedlove-TCU  
Mark Henry-Arkansas  
Turk McDonald-Texas

**GUARD-SELECT 2**  
Jason Duvall-Tech  
John Ellis-A&M  
Mike Gislser-Houston  
Matt Hart-SMU  
Monte Jones-Baylor  
Ray Straszinski-Arkansas  
Trey Teichelman-Rice  
John Turnpugh-Baylor

**TACKLE-SELECT 2**  
Mike Appelbaum-Rice  
Charlie Biggurs-Tech  
Darrell Clapp-Houston  
Tyler Harrison-A&M  
Chuck Johnson-Texas  
Chris Oliver-Arkansas

**RUNNING BACK-SELECT 2**  
Trevor Cobb-Rice

Butch Hadnot-Texas  
Rongea Hill-SMU  
E.D. Jackson-Arkansas  
Anthony Lynn-Tech  
Curtis Modkins-TCU  
Robert Strait-Baylor

**TIGHT END-SELECT 1**  
Kelly Blackwell-TCU  
Kolis Crier-Rice  
Lyndy Lindsey-Arkansas  
Curtis Thrift-Texas

**WIDE RECEIVER-SELECT 2**  
Rodney Blackshear-Tech  
Verlond Brown-Houston  
Tracy Caldwell-Arkansas  
Tracy Good-Houston  
Eric Henley-Rice  
Stephen Shipley-TCU  
Anthony Stinnett-Tech  
Jason Wolf-SMU

**PLACEMENT-SELECT 1**  
Roman Anderson-Houston  
Lin Elliott-Tech  
Jeff Wilkinson-TCU  
Todd Wright-Arkansas

**DEFENSE**

**DOWN LINEMEN-SELECT 3**  
Roosevelt Collins-TCU  
Santana Dotson-Baylor  
Shane Dronett-Texas  
Pat Henry-A&M  
Tommy Jeter-Texas  
Robin Jones-Baylor  
Owen Kelly-Arkansas  
Mike Liscio-Tech  
Uzo Okeke-SMU  
James Patton-Texas

**DEFENSIVE BACK-SELECT 4**  
Mark Berry-Texas

Matt Sign-Rice  
Lance Teichelman-A&M

**LINEMEN-SELECT 4**  
Jason Bednarz-SMU  
Eric Blount-Houston  
Lee Brudner-Baylor  
Marcus Buckley-A&M  
Chris Collins-SMU  
Quentin Coryatt-A&M  
Curtis Hafford-Baylor  
Bill Kiely-SMU  
Ryan McCoy-Houston  
Mical Padgett-Texas  
Boone Powell-Texas  
Brad Smith-TCU

**DEFENSIVE BACK-SELECT 4**  
Mark Berry-Texas

**COACH**  
**SELECT 1**  
Jack Crowe-Arkansas  
Spike Dykes-Tech  
Fred Goldsmith-Rice  
John Jenkins-Houston  
David McWilliams-Texas  
Tom Rossley-SMU  
R.C. Slocum-A&M  
Grant Teaff-Baylor  
Jim Wacker-TCU



To receive a ballot by mail, write: Exxon SWC Supreme Team, Ballot Request, PO Box 53255, Houston, Tx. 77052.